NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. MS and HSD is released to COCO outlets as well as dealer-operated outlets at natural temperature as per the capacity of tank truck, and hence there is no discrimination in supply between COCO and dealers-operated retail outlets.

(c) The Govt. vide letter No. P-20027/8/82-PP dated 16.5.83 authorised payment of revised dealers commissions following the increase in ex-storage point price of HSD w.e.f. 15.2.83. The Govt. also gave a formula for increase in dealers commission, whenever there is an increase in ex-storage point prices of MS/HSD. Retail selling prices of MS/HSD include a uniform element of commission. In the formula for automatic price revision, additional working capital/product loss have been taken into account due to price revision that may be authorised by the Govt. from time to time.

Operating cost of LPG distributorship

2574. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per cylinder estimated operating cost of running the LPG distributorship in the markets having population less than 10 lakh and in Delhi market;

(b) what elements of cost are taken into account at the time of deciding the distributorships commission; and

(c) what are the reasons for giving very high increase in profits of Delhi Distributors by increasing the refill sole ceiling limits rapidly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the sample survey conducted for the Directors' Committee Report of August, 1997, the average cost per distributor works out to about Rs. 6.88 per cylinder on an all-India basis as per 1995-96 data.

(b) Dealers' Commission takes into account the following elements:

(i) Return on investment;

(ii) Operating costs which includes expenses like salary and wages, electricity, insurance, repair and maintenance, telephone, uniforms, conveyance, depreciation, taxes/fees/audit, rent, printing and stationery, consumables and shrinkage allowance where applicable.

(iii) Cost of working capital and stock loss.

(c) LPG refill ceiling is linked with the population of the city/town in which the markets are located. Refill ceiling for various markets is fixed on the Principle of Servicing Capability, Operating Costs, Viability levels and other factors like availability of land, etc. Accordingly, the LPG refill sale ceiling limits have been revised upward in May, 1997 on all India basis including Delhi. On account of above factors, refill sale ceiling limits are higher in towns with higher population.

LNG Terminal at Haldia

2575. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a LNG terminal is set up by Gas Authority of India, Ltd. (GAIL) or any other Government agency in Haldia;

(b) if so, the project cost and the likely date of completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof in view of the offer from the Government of West Bengal to take part in equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although Government of West Bengal have expressed its interest in equity participation for setting up an LNG Terminal at Haldia, the demand for LNG to required level has not been assessed for the projects other than those at Dahej and Cochin.

New exploration licensing policy

2576. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL:

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:—